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R 031557Z JUN 94
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5778
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 PARIS 15248

NESCO

UNESCO 106/94

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: UNESCO, AORC, RW

SUBJECT: UNESCO ASSISTANCE TO RWANDA

REF: A) NEWYORK 2107 B) PARIS 12550

1. ON MAY 26, MISSIONREPS MET WITH DANIEL JANICOT, UNESCO UNCLASSIFIED

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CHEF DE CABINET AND DESIGNATED ASSISTANT DIRECTOR-GENERAL AS
OF JUNE 1. JANICOT SAID THAT UNESCO HAD SHORT AND LONG TERM
PLANS REGARDING ASSISTANCE TO RWANDA, PURSUANT TO A
RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE 144TH SESSION OF THE UNESCO
EXECUTIVE BOARD (REFTEL B). THE BOARD RESOLUTION CALLED FOR
SHORT TERM ACTION IN THE FORM OF EMERGENCY PROVISION OF
EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN DISPLACED BY THE CONFLICT. IT ALSO
CALLED FOR AN IN-DEPTH STUDY OF THE CAUSES OF, AND SOLUTIONS
TO, THE RECURRENT CONFLICT IN RWANDA.

INITIAL STEPS ON RWANDA

- 2. JANICOT TOLD MISSIONREPS THAT UNESCO WAS COORDINATING ITS SHORT TERM ACTIVITIES FOR RWANDAN REFUGEES WITH THE ICRC, THE UNHCR, UNICEF, NGOS, AND OFFICIALS CONCERNED WITH THE REFUGEE CAMPS IN BURUNDI, UGANDA AND TANZANIA. HE STRESSED THAT UNESCO WOULD NOT ACTUALLY SET FOOT IN RWANDA UNTIL THE SECURITY SITUATION IMPROVED; FOR THE PRESENT, ITS ACTIVITIES WOULD BE CONFINED TO THE RWANDAN REFUGEE CAMPS IN TANZANIA, BURUNDI AND UGANDA. JANICOT SAID THAT UNESCO'S CHIEF ACTIVITY IN THE CAMPS WOULD BE THE PROVISION OF EDUCATION TO REFUGEE CHILDREN.
- 3. JANICOT SAID THAT HE PLANNED TO GO ON A "POLITICAL" MISSION TO DAR ES SALAAM (BY WAY OF NAIROBI) AND THE NGARA REFUGEE CAMP IN EARLY JUNE IN ORDER TO CLEAR THE WAY FOR UNESCO ASSISTANCE AND DETERMINE APPROPRIATE TIMING. HE WILL TRAVEL WITH A BELGIAN CONSULTANT AND STAFF FROM THE DAR ES SALAAM AND NAIROBI OFFICES. JANICOT SAID THAT F. HIGGINSON (USA), UNESCO STAFFER IN CHARGE REFUGEE EDUCATION, WAS PLANNING A SUBSEQUENT "TECHNICAL" MISSION IN JULY, ALTHOUGH UNCLASSIFIED

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THE POLITICAL AND TECHNICAL MISSIONS MAY BE TELESCOPED. HE SAID THAT HIGGINSON IS ACTING AS UNESCO'S LIAISON WITH UNHCR.

- 4. JANICOT SAID THAT UNESCO IS PROPOSING AS A FIRST STEP TO INSTALL A "UNESCO CENTER" FOR CHILDREN'S EDUCATION IN TANZANIA AND THEN TO ESTABLISH DIVISIONS IN THE CAMPS IN BURUNDI AND UGANDA. HE SAID THAT UNESCO WOULD DRAW ON ITS EXPERIENCE IN SOMALIA FOR THIS INITIATIVE. HE SAID THAT UNESCO PLANNED TO HAVE A REPRESENTATIVE ON SITE TO IMPLEMENT THE UNESCO EDUCATION PROJECT IN CLOSE COOPERATION WITH UNICEF.
- 5. JANICOT SPECULATED THAT IMPLEMENTATION OF EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR THE RWANDAN REFUGEE CHILDREN WOULD BE ESPECIALLY DIFFICULT GIVEN THE DEGREE TO WHICH MANY OF THEM HAD BEEN TRAUMATIZED. JANICOT ACKNOWLEDGED THAT FOR THE TIME BEING THE MAJOR CHALLENGE TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IN THE REFUGEE CAMPS REMAINED THAT OF ENSURING THE BASIC SURVIVAL OF THE REFUGEES. HE SAID THAT HE THOUGHT THAT THE SITUATION IN THE CAMPS WAS NOW STABILIZING AND NOTED PLANS TO DIVIDE THAT VAST REFUGEE ENCAMPMENT IN TANZANIA INTO TWO OR MORE CAMPS FOR THE SAKE OF BETTER ADMINISTRATION.

6. JANICOT TOLD MISSION THAT UNESCO WAS ALSO SEEKING TO AMELIORATE THE SITUATION INSIDE RWANDA BY GIVING THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN BELGIUM MORAL AND POSSIBLY FINANCIAL SUPPORT IN THE FUTURE TO TRANSMIT RADIO BROADCASTS "OF SERVICE AND OF TOLERANCE" FROM A STATION IN BELGIUM TO UNCLASSIFIED

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RWANDA. JANICOT SAID THAT THIS PROJECT WOULD PRIMARILY BE

RUN BY THE NGO COLLECTIVE FOR RWANDA, BUT ADDED THAT UNESCO

HOPED TO CONTRIBUTE MATERIAL TO ITS RADIO PROGRAMS. JANICOT

REPORTED THAT THE COLLECTIVE WAS STILL IN THE PROCESS OF

NEGOTIATING WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF BELGIUM. JANICOT SAID

THAT THIS INITIATIVE WAS IMPORTANT TO COUNTERACT THE EFFECTS

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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 03 PARIS 15248

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OF RADIO BROADCASTS INSIDE RWANDA WHICH WERE INCITING THE POPULATION TO MURDER.

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7. COMMENT. IN A SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION WITH MICHEL ADAM, BELGIAN PERMDEL TO UNESCO, MISSION WAS INFORMED THAT THE GOB WAS RELUCTANT FOR POLITICAL REASONS TO GRANT A RADIO FREQUENCY TO THE NGO COLLECTIVE (CLONG) TO TRANSMIT MESSAGES FROM BELGIUM TO RWANDA. HE STATED THAT IN ORDER FOR MESSAGES TO BE TRANSMITTED IN KINYARWANDA, RWANDANS WOULD HAVE TO BE INVOLVED IN THE PROJECT. HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE PROBLEMATIC TO IDENTIFY NEUTRAL RWANDANS. FURTHERMORE, HE ASSERTED, THE RADIO STATION WOULD BE READILY RECOGNIZED AS BELGIAN AND THIS MIGHT POSE SPECIAL PROBLEMS FOR BELGIUM. ADAM REPORTED THAT THE GOB HAD NOT YET MADE A FINAL DECISION. END COMMENT.

#### RWANDAN EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

- 8. ON MAY 31, MISSION DISCUSSED UNESCO EDUCATION ACTIVITIES FOR RWANDA WITH HIGGINSON. REFERRING TO JANICOT'S MISSION TO ASSESS THE FEASIBILITY OF UNESCO ACTION IN THE REFUGEE CAMPS, HIGGINSON STATED IT WAS "ANYBODY'S GUESS" WHAT JANICOT WOULD BRING BACK. HE NOTED THAT JANICOT HAD NO ON-THE-GROUND EXPERIENCE WITH REFUGEE SITUATIONS. IN HIGGINSON'S OPINION, UNESCO WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO ORGANIZE EDUCATION ACTIVITIES IN TANZANIA PRIOR TO THE DIVISION OF THE NGARA CAMP.
- 9. HIGGINSON STATED HE OR A BELGIAN CONSULTANT WOULD ACCOMPANY THE UNHCR ON A TECHNICAL MISSION IN JULY (PROBABLY

NO LATER THAN JULY 4) WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF REVIEWING
TEACHER STOCK, AVAILABILITY OF EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS,
COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND GENERAL HEALTH CONDITIONS. PRIOR TO
THE MISSION, HIGGINSON STATED UNESCO WOULD CARRY OUT
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CONSULTATIONS IN GENEVA AND BRUSSELS (NGOS) TO GATHER
BASELINE EDUCATION DATA AND TRY TO IDENTIFY PARTNERS FOR
IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIVITIES. HE REPORTED THAT UNHOR WAS
"ANXIOUS" FOR UNESCO TO "DEAL WITH THE EDUCATIONAL
COMPONENT" IN THE REFUGEE CAMPS. "THE 64,000 DOLLAR
QUESTION," MUSED HIGGINSON, WAS WHETHER UNESCO WOULD BE ABLE
TO "DELIVER THE GOODS."

- 10. WITH REGARD TO PRIMARY EDUCATION, HIGGINSON SAID THAT UNESCO AND UNICEF WOULD PROBABLY COLLABORATE TO "CARVE UP THE FIELD." HE THOUGHT UNICEF MIGHT CONCENTRATE ON MACRO PROJECTS, SUCH AS SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION, WHILE UNESCO PROVIDED READERS AND PRIMARY BOOKS. HE SAID PRIMARY BOOKS DEVELOPED FOR SOMALI EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES WERE CURRENTLY BEING TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH, AND IF APPROPRIATE, WOULD BE TRANSLATED INTO KINYARWANDA FOR USE BY RWANDAN STUDENTS.
- 11. COMMENTING ON EDUCATION FOR TOLERANCE AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION, HIGGINSON STATED THAT HE WAS STILL WAITING FOR THOSE RESPONSIBLE "TO DEVELOP A COHERENT STRATEGY." HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE WERE PLANS, BUT CONTENDED THAT THE PLANS LACKED CONCRETE APPLICATIONS. HIS SUGGESTIONS ON POSSIBLE CONTACTS, RESOURCES, METHODS AND CONTENT SEEMED TO "FALL INTO A BLACK HOLE," STATED HIGGINSON.

### UNESCO ACTION IN BURUNDI

12. IN THE MAY 26 MEETING, JANICOT ALSO DISCUSSED BURUNDI AS A RELATED AREA OF UNESCO ACTION. HE REVEALED THAT DIRECTOR-GENERAL MAYOR HAD ASKED FOR AN ACCELERATION OF UNESCO "CULTURE OF PEACE" ACTIVITIES IN BURUNDI TO HELP UNCLASSIFIED

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AVOID A REPETITION OF THE RWANDAN SITUATION. HE SAID THAT
UNESCO ACTIVITIES HERE WOULD INCLUDE DISTRIBUTION OF PEACE
EDUCATION TEXTBOOKS AND TRANSMISSION OF RADIO BROADCASTS FOR

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HAVE AN ASSOCIATE EXPERT IN PLACE TO OVERSEE THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNESCO'S "PEACE PROGRAM." HE SAID
THAT UNESCO EXPECTED TO GET GOOD SUPPORT FROM THE UNITED
NATIONS REPRESENTATIVE IN BUJUMBURA WHO JANICOT DESCRIBED AS
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PAGE 02 PARIS 15248 03 OF 03 031559Z A "STRONG PERSONALITY." HARRIMAN

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